

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8411

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5891

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN CB

SUBJ: LA MEMBERSHIP ON COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: STATE 270697

1. CHILEAN DEPUTY PERMREP HOLGER INFORMED MISOFF MORNING DEC 11 THAT HE HAD JUST LEARNED THAT CUBAN AMB ALARCON HAS NOW ASKED UNGA PRES BOUTEFILKA TO APPOINT CUBA TO COMMITTEE OF 24 BEFORE END OF CURRENT UNGA SESSION. SINCE NORMAL PRACTICE REQUIRES CUBA TO HAVE LA GROUP ENDORSEMENT BEFORE SUCH CANDIDACY IS ANNOUNCED, IT UNCLEAR WHETHER CUBA GUARANTEED BOUTEFILKA THAT SUCH ENDORSEMENT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. HOLGER HAS TAKEN FURTHER SOUNDINGS AMONG LAS AND FOUND SURPRISINGLY LARGE NUMBER WHO ARE NOT WILLING TO OPPOSE CUBAN ENTRANCE INTO GROUP AND PARTICIPATION IN WORK OF COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS THAT SINCE GENERAL TREND IN LA IS TO RESTORED RELATIONS WITH CUBA MIGHT BENEFIT FROM BEING INCLUDED INSIDE THE GROUP AT THE UN AND MIGHT MODERATE HER POLICY BY MEMBERSHIP ON THE COMMITTEE. HOLGER GREATLY CONCERNED THAT THIS KIND OF WISHFUL THINKING WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO LA GROUP ENDORSEMENT OF CUBAN COMMITTEE OF 24 CANDIDACY.

2. ACCORDING TO HOLGER, ONLY GUATEMALA (ON FOURTH COMMITTEE DELEGATION LEVEL) HAS SHOWN ANY INTEREST IN JOINING COMMITTEE. HOLGER URGED THAT WE DO WHATEVER WE CAN ON VERY RAPID

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BASIS IF WE ARE TO BLOCK CUBAN CANDIDACY.

3. AMB SCHAUFELLE HAS ALERTED HAITI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR AND COSTA RICA TO PROBLEM AND RECEIVED SYMPATHETIC RESPONSE. OUR LATEST INFORMATION IS THAT GUATEMALAN MISSION IS SEEKING INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITAL AS TO WHETHER TO PRESENT ITS CANDIDACY.

4. LA GROUP MEETING THIS MORNING AND WILL PROBABLY DISCUSS POSSIBLE CUBAN CANDIDACY BUT, SINCE IT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED FORMAL CUBAN REQUEST, IS UNLIKELY TO TAKE FORMAL ACTION AT THIS TIME.

5. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT GUATEMALA AND ANY OTHER LA CAPITALS AS APPROPRIATE.
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